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EDITORIAL COMMENT

STATE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS

As time goes on, and state registration becomes more and more an old story, we hear less of what is really the most vital work being done for the advancement of nursing standards, the methods and procedures of the thirty-nine boards of nurse examiners. We know in a general way that these boards are active, that they are struggling with difficult problems, and that their labors are unceasing, but we believe the nursing body as a whole should know more of their work and that greater publicity would be a benefit to the boards, themselves, to hospital workers, to nurses in the field and to prospective graduates. These boards are asking for more time for discussion at national meetings, and we believe the time has come when, following the lead of the medical profession, whose boards of examiners are organized, there should be a regularly organized federation of state boards of nurse examiners with an affiliation with the American Nurses' Association similar to that of the League of Nursing Education and the Public Health Nurses. Provision would then be made for special sessions during the week of the national meetings, and condensed reports of the work of the whole country would be submitted to the national body and published in its official organ.

The demand from our readers for the publication of examination questions in the JOURNAL continues, though the limitation of our space makes it more and more difficult for us to print them. We urge an affiliation of this kind between state boards as a means of standardizing the examinations over the country, the need for which is apparent from the difference in value of the questions as they come to us. Many of these examinations are not published from lack of space.

We know that in some states the questions prepared by the different examiners are submitted to the board as a whole, before being used in the

examination, and are discussed and revised. In just the same way that the board as a whole, in such states, is responsible for the questions of any individual examiner, so we believe an affiliation of all the boards might lead to a discussion, in executive session, of the questions to be used, which would result in more uniform standards and would vastly improve the examinations in those states having lower standards. It would prevent the adoption of questions not applicable to nurses, or of those too medical in character, or of those so scientific in nature as to be unfair to the average graduate.

When such an affiliation is brought about, we should like to have a department in this JOURNAL devoted to the work of the boards, where reports from the different states would have a recognized place, month by month, and where common problems could be discussed.

MEDICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST TO NURSES

The December number of the *Annals of Surgery*, published by the J. B. Lippincott Company of Philadelphia, is one of unusual interest to nurses. Aside from the usual contents, it has an anesthesia supplement giving the papers read at the annual meeting of the American Association of Anesthetists in Minneapolis in June, 1913. This association was organized at a meeting following that of the American Medical Association at Atlantic City in June, 1912, the object being to advance in every way possible the science and art of anesthesia.

In these papers many phases of anesthesia are discussed: the agent used, the method employed, the reflex action, the anesthetiser, deaths from anesthesia and the legal aspect. The number is beautifully illustrated, and among other cuts are two showing apparatus and procedure for intra-venous and intra-tracheal anesthesia, which are of special interest.

A comparatively new idea brought out in this discussion is that the shock and extreme prostration following a surgical operation are due, not only to loss of blood, but to the effect upon the brain and nervous system of the manipulation of the nerves, tissues and vital organs, although the patient is unconscious of pain. Those interested in this branch of medical research are making a great study of local anesthesia, in connection with general, to prevent the transmission of shock to the brain during operation.

The trend of opinion in these papers is directly against the administration of anesthetics of any kind by inexperienced operators or by nurses, the argument being, in reference to them, that while many nurses have learned to administer one kind of anesthetic with great skill and

success, no anesthetist is safe who can use only one method, as it frequently happens, owing to idiosyncrasy, that the method must be suddenly changed in the midst of an operation in order to save life.

Those who are studying the different phases of the education of the nurse will be interested in reading some of the papers which were given before the Section on Hospitals of the American Medical Association at Minneapolis last June, which may be found in the issue for December 13 of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. These papers are: "Efficiency in Nursing," by W. Gilman Thompson, New York; "The Trained Nurse of the Future," by Richard Olding Beard, Minneapolis; and "Obligations of Hospital and the Public to Training Schools for Nurses," by Joseph B. Howland, Boston. A discussion followed in which a number of physicians and nurses took part. From Dr. Beard's paper we gather that the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which was requested by the American Nurses' Association to make a study of nursing education, is contemplating a study of conditions in six or more states for the purpose of reaching some consensus of judgment in the matter of entrance requirements, preliminary training, duration and character of courses, etc." This magazine can be obtained by sending fifteen cents, the price of a single copy, to the publication office at 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Our readers will remember that in our comment on the convention of the National League of Nursing Education, in the August JOURNAL, we noted the fact reported there, that in Massachusetts nurses are required by law to report, both to the board of health and to the charity organization, cases of any inflammation in the eyes of the new-born, and that the state examinations are to include questions as to the knowledge of this law. The state of Pennsylvania has recently included such requirements in the rules and regulations adopted by the Advisory Board of the State Department of Health, which read in part as follows:

Any midwife, or nurse, or other person having the care of an infant, whose eyes have become inflamed or swollen or reddened at any time within two weeks after birth, shall report the same, in writing, to the health authorities of the city, borough or township, etc. . . . within six hours after the discovery thereof; giving the name of the infant, the names of the parents or guardians, and the street or number of their residence . . . and shall make a similar report in writing to some regularly qualified practicing physician of the district.

This is a valuable piece of information for Pennsylvania nurses, because the state does not excuse violations on the plea of ignorance of the law.

TWO VALUABLE ADDITIONS TO NURSING LITERATURE

Dr. S. W. Newmayer, in charge of the Division of Child Hygiene of the Bureau of Health, Philadelphia, has written a book called *Medical and Sanitary Inspection of Schools*, which is of special value to nurses working in any of the departments of social service. Dr. Newmayer, it will be remembered, has contributed a number of papers to this JOURNAL, on the subject of school nursing, in the past. The book will be reviewed by Miss Cameron in regular order but, as in the case of Miss Cannon's book, we mention it now because of the constant demand coming to this office for books on these subjects. It is published by Lea and Febiger at the price of \$2.50 and may be ordered through the JOURNAL Book Department.

The long-looked for book on *Home Nursing*, by Miss McIsaac and Miss Delano is at last on the market, having been published by Blakiston, as part of the series of Red Cross text-books. The authors need no introduction to American nurses, and this practical book, designed to be a guide in teaching unprofessional people how to care for their sick at home, will be of the greatest value to nurses who are called upon to give talks to young mothers, to girls just leaving school, to classes formed by the Young Women's Christian Associations, etc. The price is \$1 and it may be obtained through the Book Department of the JOURNAL.

UNAUTHORIZED INSIGNIA

We want to say a word to the young nurse about the wearing of pins and badges that have no special significance. An alumnae or school or Red Cross pin has a proper place on a nurse's uniform, if she is entitled to it and desires to wear it, but pins or badges that are gotten out by private individuals and recommended as nurses' pins, have only the fact that they are attractive in design to recommend them, and are out of place. The other pins referred to signify graduation from a school or membership in an organization with recognized ideals and standards, and signify either professional or moral fitness, or both, in the wearer, and of such a nurse may be proud, but these professional badges are cheapened and lose their significance to the public when nurses in good standing wear those that have no significance.

DISPOSAL OF OLD COPIES OF THE JOURNAL

We have an unusual number of calls from nurses who wish to obtain back numbers of the JOURNAL in order to complete sets for binding, going back as far as the first volume. We know that many nurses who value

their JOURNALS highly find the accumulation of copies burdensome, especially when living in small quarters, and we have been able in the past to dispose of many whole or broken sets at the price of twenty five cents for single copies, or two dollars for the year, and express charges. If the numbers are bound, a reasonable charge is added, depending on the value of the binding and its condition. No copies should be offered for sale that are not fresh and clean.

We would suggest that nurses wishing to dispose of sets in this way should communicate with the editorial office at Rochester, giving full particulars.

ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB SCHOLARSHIPS

The committee which administers the Isabel Hampton Robb Memorial Fund hopes to offer three scholarships for the coming year, 1914-1915, to nurses desiring to pursue study either at Teachers College, New York, the School for Social Workers, Boston, or the School of Civics, Chicago. Applications may be made to Miss Nutting, the chairman of the committee on scholarships, up to March 1st, at Teachers College, New York City. Candidates who show themselves best fitted to take advantage of the courses offered are given preference.

A CORRECTION

In the December JOURNAL, page 181, there is a mistake in the formula for salt solution, due to a printer's error. It should read $\frac{3}{4}$ i-Oi.